

Bundle
3-63

"Where the Trail Divides"

Property of Johnnie Speer

WHERE THE TRAIL DIVIDES

CHARACTERS

Jack Burton Lead
Tom Brad Heavy
Dave Ford Rough Character Old Man
Toby Comedy
Jane Brad Lead
Lydia Comedy

SETTINGS

SCENE ONE : Exterior of Tom Brad's house. Rough Ranch scene.
House of rough board practical window and door.
Fence up back.

SCENE TWO : Interior of Dave Ford's home. Wealth ranchman's
den. Adobe style. Indian blankets, pottery, and
curios about the room.

SCENE THREE: Exterior of Tom Brad's home in the evening. Blue
lights, all through scene.

PROPS

Sack of food for Jack
Guns for everybody except women
Bench
Fence
Set house
Book

Guitar
Table
Writing Material
Paper
Chairs
Twenty five cents for Lydia

WHERE THE TRAIL DIVIDES

***** SCENE ONE *****

Tom

(enters R) Jane, Jane! Where are you?

Jane

(in the house off stage) Yes, dear?

Tom

Why isn't supper ready?

Jane

I'm sorry dear, but I had to go get some supplies. It won't take long.

(enters) Why, what makes you so out of temper, Tom?

Tom

(sitting down on bench) Oh I don't know. I suppose its the weather. Jane, that sun is like a great big cook stove out on the plains there with them cattle. It just beats down upon your head, until you think you're going crazy.

Jane

(sitting down beside him and earressing his head) Poor Tom!

Tom

I suppose you wish you'd married Jack Burton or old man Ford don't you. Then you wouldn't have to work and keep house in this little shack, on this God forsaken ranch.

Jane

Oh I don't mind it, Tom.

Tom

Oh I know you do. Jane, if I could only afford to give you some of the little luxuries that other people have. I know you want them, because you had them once.

Jane

I wouldn't mind the work, Tom, if I could only see you come home with a smile on your face occasionally.

Tom

Come home with a smile on my face occasionally, do you how long I've worked here on this ranch for Old Dave Ford? It's been over five years, and in all that time I've never recieved a single raise in salary.

Jane

I'm sorry, Tom. I'm sure you deserve it.

Tom

All the other boys get a raise once in a while, but I go plodding along year in and and out, and when I ask for a raise do I get it? And the result we have to live here in this cheap cabin and you have to do your own housework.

Jane

There, Tom, I don't mind doing my own housework and living here in this cheap cabin as you call it, just as long as we have health and strength and are happy, that is the main thing.

Tom

Oh I wouldn't blame you if you wanted to call of the whole thing, Jane, and get a divorce from me and marry Jack Burton or some one who could support you like a lady.

Jane

Stop, Tom. I married you because I loved you. I knew you were poor and I would have to do my own housework but I didn't mind that so long I could see you were happy. Please don't say anything about divorce and marrying Jack. You know, Jack asked me to marry him long before you did, and I refused him and married you, but he is still a good friend to us, Tom.

Tom

Yes, I think he is a true friend.

Jane

I know he is. But come now, let us smooth all those horrid wrinkles. What there's another one? Now, lets go into the house, and perhaps after you have eaten your supper, you may feel better, Tom.

Jack

(calls off stage) Hello, Tom. Hello, Jane! Yoooo hooo!

Jane

(running up R) Oh look there's Jack now. He's rode over to see us.

Jack

(entering spryly) A h hello, Jane, and Tom. Just thought I'd ride over and see how you was. Just in time for supper, aint I?

Jane

Why of course, Jack. I'm afraid you'll have to be satisfied with a very small meal though. We000

Jack

Ah, thats all right. I'm not real hungry, I'm just starved. I didn't think you'd have quite enough to fill me up so I brought my own-- (hands her a sack)

Jane

(taking it and laughing) Oh Jack, thank you.

Tom

Well, what do you know, Jack? How are things up at the ranch?

Jack

Just about the same as usual, a cowboy killed a greaser this morning and I br-- him in and turned him over to the sheriff.

Jane

Why I-- those d-- well over.

He used to go into a poker game, one of the two used to run a ranch down in old Mexico he used to-- a greaser every morning before breakfast, just to wrk up an-- for the day.

Tom

Yes, he do it now if he only dared to. Damn him!

Jane

Tom!

Tom

Well he would. Instead of killing off men these days he grinds his men down to a measly salary and keeps them there, the old skinflint.

Jack

Well, I've never had any trouble with him. I just got a raise this month. EVERY time I ask the old man for a raise I get it.

Tom

Oh I hate old Dave Ford and his whole infernal outfit. Why should he have any more than I have? I work just as hard as he does. He used to be only a common cow puncher, and now look at him! Why he's worth millions, owns several big silver mines in old Mexico, four or five ranches in the states, and the Fourth National Bank in town. He got it all by grinding down his men. Well, things will be different some day. (shows roll of money) Here's a few thousand that I got off that bunch of cattle to take to turn in to him, I could steal half of it and it might never be found out.

Jack

Don't be a fool Tom. You deserve more money, but you want to get it in the right way. Stolen money never made any man's head rest easy with sleep. Gee, I wish you'd got that raise in salary instead of me.

Tom

Oh I never get anything in my life. I'm the most unlucky man in the world. I'll show old Dave Ford some day though. (exits in to house)

Jane

Oh why is it, Tom can't get along any better than he does, Tom?

Jack

Well, Jane, this getting along is just about as some folks look at it now. Now Tom thinks he is unlucky, but I think he is the luckiest man in the world. He won you for his wife, if I'd been lucky enough to do that I'd considered I was getting along fine, for I'd be living next to heaven.

Jane

Don't, Jack, Don't--

Jack

Well thats about all past, and gone now. Jane, I'm glad you married Tom. He's trying to make you happy, and I'm doing all in my power to make you both happy.

Ford

(off L) Whoa! Whoa! Darn your hide whoa! (noise of horses and buggy)

Jane

(looking off L) Oh, look, theres old man Ford himself. I wonder what he wants here?

Ford

(enters L) 'Evening Mrs. Brad. Hello, Jack.

Jane

Good evening, Mr Ford. I'm glad to see you.

Ford

Yeh, thought I'd just drop over and see Tom for a little while, and then of course I'd get to see you too, (winks devilishly at her) Ah, its a shame you have to live here in this stuffy old cabin. Why you were born to be a bright star of society.

Jane

Well, Mr. Ford, I find that there are other pleasures in life beside society. I am far happier in my stuffy little cabin than I would be as a butterfly of fashion.

Ford

Yes. Well hard work never hurt anyone. I had to work when I was young and work hard too. I learned the value of a dollar long before I reached the age of manhood, I earned my money and I made that earn me more.

Jack

And you haven't given it a vacation either have you.

Ford

No I should say not. These fellers that are always growling because they never get a chance, they make me sick. Mrs. Brad your husband is a grumbler. Thinks I ought to raise him all the time, and for no work on his part.

Tom

(enters from house L unobserved)

Jane

But, Mr. Ford don't you think he deserves just a little more than he is getting now?

Ford

NO! If I thought he did, I'd give it to him. But then, my dear, I do feel sorry for you. Why you are so beautiful so out of place here, You deserve a fine, home, fine clothes, the best in the land.

Tom

Of course she is deserving all these things and why hasn't she got them? I'll tell you why, its because you won't give me a chance, you Damn Shylock!

Ford

What! (reach for gun)

Jack

Hold on, Ford. I've got the drop on you. (takes E between them)

Ford

Well, all right. But see here, Brad, no man ever said what you did to

me, and lived. Its hard for me to swallow this. Yes might hard!

Tom

If I had the chance Jack Burton or dozens of others in your employe have had we'd have a nice home and my wife wouldn't have to do h r own house work, and she co ld have fine clothes. I have worked just as hard as the others, and do I ever get a raise in salary No. You made your money by killing, and grinding down others, and you try to keep it by doing the same. You'd take my wife away from me if you thought you could. You dirty rat, I guess you know now, what I think of you!

Ford

Why you (bus with gun)

Jack

Hold on, Ford. As I aid before and once more, I've got the drop on you, and no gun play goes here.

Jane

(appealing to Ford) Mr. Ford, please- --

Ford

Pardon me, Mrs. Brad. I am sorry I lost my temper, mighty sorry--

Tom

Aw, let him shoot. I'll show him he's a coward.

Jane

Tom! Tom! Do you know what you are saying?

Tom

Oh I don't care. I---(tearing at his shirt, and whipping perspiration off his brow) Its so hot---so stuffy---I don't know what to say. (stagge into house)

Haek

Tis pretty darn hot. Dogs go mad this kind of weather and I guess it works on humans alike.

Jane

Please forget what he said, Mr. Ford.

Ford

All right. I---guess I am pretty hard and rough. Its the hard battle of life that made me so. I started punching cattle and being knocked arojnd when I was a kid, We had to rule by main force in the old days, and I reckon I aint got over it yet.

Jack

No, the old habit still sticks with you.

Ford

Mrs. Brad, I'll pass up what your husband just said for the present, and keep him on the job just the same.

Jane

Oh thank you, thank you! (exits into house)

Jack

You're all right, Mr. Ford!

Ford

Coward! Dirty Rat! Shylock! Jack Burton, I'd have added another dead man to my list if you had held the drop on me.

Jack

You must forget all of that, Mr. Ford. Tom isn't responsible for what he says.

Ford

Forget! Why I'd stamp him in the ground if it wasn't for that little woman of his. I don't forget things like that, Jack. He's no good. I tell you, no good! I'm going to give him a chance to hang himself.

Jack

What do you mean?

Ford

I've got to go down in old Mexico and settle some trouble on my silver

mines down there. While I am gone, I'm going to make Tom foreman of my ranch. I'll let him run this place for two or three months. He'll fall right into a nice trap. Because before I step over the border, he'll have stole ten thousand dollars from me.

Jack

No he wouldn't.

Ford

He would! I'll let him do it, and then I'll land him where he'll have years to think over what he called me. (laughing) That's my way of revenge, Jack. Sometimes it doesn't do any good to shoot a man. Slow torture is always worse than death. I'll fix him! I'll fix him! (exits) Come with me, Jack! (they both exits L)

NUMBER

ONE

Tom

(enters after Number) I wonder how much longer it can last? Old Dave Ford went away to look after his interest in Old Mexico, three months ago. He put me in charge of the business here, he let me handle his business and I've stole thousands of dollars. Jane is happy here, and she no longer has to drudge along doing her own housework. Oh, but how long will it last? Old Ford will come home most any day and confront me with my crime. Then it will mean the prison for me, but if I can defeat him, I'll go to any extent.

Jane

(enters from house) Oh, Tom, dear have you seen that new cook we hired from the city?

Tom

No. Isn't she in the kitchen?

Jane

She hasn't been in the kitchen for almost two hours. I don't know what she has done.

Lydia

(enters from R)

Tom

Why here she is now.

Jane

My dear girl, where have you been? Don't you know that its time for dinner?

Lydia

Oh my goodness is it now? I've been practixing my dramatic lesson and I forgot all about the time.

Jane

Dramatics! Are you going to be an actress?

Lydia

Oh I should say so? (shows her a book) See this! This is a co-respondent course on the art of acting. I've only got twenty more lessons and then I'll be on Broadway. Oh my oh me, I'm so thrilled.

Jane

Well, you get in there and get dinner, I didn't hire you to act, I hired you to cook.

Lydia

Yessum. Don't lose your temper with me. You see I'm a high strung woman of emotion, and I'm just liable to have a fit of temperament most any time. Please don't forget that I am from the East, and this Western World holds nothing for an artistic soul like mine.

(exits ala Sarah Bernhardt)

Tom

(laughing) Say, she's a knockout isn't she?

Jane
Well, she's going to get knocked out, if she don't get to work (exit after her in house)

Tom
I wonder where that Toby is. Jane has trouble with the cook, and I have trouble with the men. None of them pay any attention to me, but that half witted fool. I'll call him, and torment him with my power. Toby!
Toby!

Toby
(offstage) I can't come now! I can't come now!

Tom
Why not?

Toby
That old cat ran away and left her kittens this morning and I've got to stay and be a mother to 'em.

Tom
You come on in here!

Toby
(enters L) Yes sir! Yes sir!

Tom
Listen, don't ever hesitate when I call you. I'm the boss of this ranch---

Toby
Well it taint my fault---

Tom
Whenever I tell you to do a thing, you do,
Toby

Yes sir I do--

Tom
I know you dooo--
Toby

Not!

Tom
Be careful abo ut your impudence. I'm the boss you know! What have you been doing for the last two hours?

Toby
Talkin' to your hired girl?

Tom
What!

Toby
Yep! I'm gonna git her. She owes me fifty cents.

Tom
Did you loan her fifty cents.

Toby
Yep, when she first came here, she borrowed it from me, and forgot to pay it back.

Tom
Well it serves you right. Listen, I'm going out in the corral and see if you done the work I told you to. If you, didn't you'll do it tonight. Git me! (turns back and starts off L)

Toby
I don't want you. (fingers nose at him)

Tom
(turns sees him)

Toby
(makes out like he's wiping his nose, grins at Tom)

Tom
(going over to him) How'd you like for me to bust you one? I wouldn't like-it.

Toby
I wouldn't like it!

Tom

Then watch your step! (exits L)

Toby

Gee, I hope that guy gets euekleburrs in his B. V. D's. Hot dern! I wonder where that hired gal is. I'm gonna get that fifty cents or else ---

Lydia

(off stage) All right, Miss, I'll take this out to the hogs. (enters)

Toby

Ah there you are!

Lydia

(hands him a pan of slop) Here, eat this up quick.

Toby

All right I'll---what the---say I aint no hog--

Lydia

You'll have to prove it.

Toby

Yes, and that all you got to do, you got to pay me my fifty cents.

Lydia

Now, listen here, don't bother me about that fifty cents. I don't care about it.

Toby

Yes, but I do. You got your nerve comin' down here from one of them Employment Agenejes in the city, and takin' advantage of an innocent dow puncher like me. You give me that fiftycents.

Lydia

Oh dear, don't bother me. Do you think that I, I the greatest actress the American stage has ever had, should worry over fifty cents. Do you see this little book right here. Twenty more lessons out of it, and I'll be worth a million.

Toby

Then will I get my fifty cents.

Lydia

I'll tell you what you can do to pay me back that fifty cents I borrowed from you.

Toby

What?

Lydia

You can read some lines in this play to help me out. Then after you have done that, I will not consider that you owe me fifty cents. Here take the book. You read the lovers' part. Your name is Lysol!

Toby

What's your name?

Lydia

I am the fair Hypodermo.

Toby

Thats a devil of a mixture Lysol and Hypodermo.

Lydia

Go on read, and I will astound you with my histrionic art.

Toby

Are you gonna do that?

Lydia

Yes, yes.

Toby

I better go round up the cattle then. (starts)

Lydia

Cease mad fool! Try not to escape me. You have made your advancements to my maidenly soul, and now you cannot go, you cannot go! (shakes him) Go on and read your lines. In the book!

Toby

(looks in book) What's in the book.

Lydia

The lines! The lines! Look I'm acting. Ah, false fickle, Iysol, if you do not say you love me, I shall die, I' shall kill myself.

Toby

(reading out of book) Always apply moist rough to the lips before powdering.

Lydia

Oh you're on the wrong page. (turns pages) Now read! Ah, fair Iysol you know not to whom you speak. You, sir, have wronged the daughter of King Colgate, whose people for many generations have dwelt upon the shores of Pluto Water. My mother was the fair Listerine, child of Sodias, the Bi-carbonated Duke of Three ESS's. In my blood, flows rich Wine of Elixer. Do you dare denounce me? Speak! Speak! What have you to say?

Toby

Where's my fifty cents!

Lydia

Oh dear me, you're terrible. (turns to the page in book) Now you read that speech. Read with all the booming, unbounded feelings of your inward soul.

Toby

Disten, now, I aint gonna make no mess around the yard here.

Lydia

Go on, read it.

Toby

On e of us is a darn fool, and I think its both of us. (reads) Cease they prattle, false Hypodermo, you are fired with the imagination of eiree' Indeed, I spoke of love to thee, but you have east thy bewitching eyes upon another. Don't deny it! Be content that I do not draw sword and stab you in (turns leaf) Next page! Wait- Do you expect me to love a faithless woman? Me, with in whose blood the rich wine of Mideo, doth flow. Why you, fiend, I shall, I shall--- (turns page) Wait till I turn oger!

Ford

(enters L comes down C)

Lydia

(sees him and sneaks off)

Toby

(not noting him and going on reading) I shall expell you from me forever. Oh Heaven knows that I have loved thee, not wisely but too well. I could forgive thy sins, if I were but to dwell in the rapture of your embrace. Come! Come, let me entwine my arm about thee, and plant a kiss upon thy sweet ruby lips. (takes Ford, puts arm around him, and lifts his face up to kiss him, when he sees who it is) OH Gee, oh gosh, oh gosh!

Ford

Why you consarned, half wit, what are you trying to do. Get out of here for I scalp you alive.

Tom

(enters L)

Ford

Is this the way you keep my men at work, while I 'm gone? Have them out here reading poetry.

Tom

(to Toby) I'm gonna kill you!

Toby

If you don't somebody else will. (exits R)

Tom

Did you settle your business all right, Mr. Ford.

Ford

I'm bakk aint I? Do you suppose I'd come back if I didn't get what I

went for?

Tom

No sir.

Ford

Well, I'll take over the ranch again. Now it will be run right.
(exits L)

Tom

Run right? What does he mean by that?

Jack

(enters R) Tom, it is found out.

Tom

What's found out?

Jack

The money you took.

Tom

Who said I took money?

Jack

Old Dave Ford. Now, Tom, don't try to fourflush me. You need a friend now if you ever needed one, think of your wife. Old Dave Ford only promoted you to this job to give you a chance to steal. He's got you now where he can get even with you for the sailing down you gave him that day.

Tom

Jack, if I start right now, do you suppose I could make it across the border?

Jack

It's useless, Tom. His men are watching you right and left. Now brace up. Here comes Jane. Perhaps you had better not let her see you for awhile.

Tom

No, no, I can't face her now. (exits L)

Jane

(enter from house) Why, Jack, are you back.

Jack

Yes, old Ford and I just got back from the border.

Jane

I suppose you are glad to get back to the ranch, again, aren't you?

Jack

Oh yes, but then it doesn't make much difference to me, Jane, where I live. You see I haven't any regular brand or home.

Jane

That's too bad, Jack. Why all of the time that I have known you I have never heard you speak of your father or mother or where you came from. Sit down, won't you tell me about them?

Jack

Well, Jane, as near as I can remember my father was a hunter and trapper in Colorado. We lived in a little cabin up in the mountains, one day a stranger came to our cabin and asked for hospitality. Of course father gave it to him, he stayed around there for a number of days. My father never suspected anything. One day, father took me out to show me how to set the traps, and when we returned home that night the cabin was empty, my mother had eloped with the stranger and they left no trace behind them.

Jane

And don't you know what became of her?

Jack

Yes, that night, father was taken sick with fever, and in his delirium, he cried out the name of the woman he had loved, and last and prayed to go to send her back to him. He lingered several days between life and death. At last his prayers were answered, for one evening

just as the sun was sitting in the west, my mother crept into the cabin a mere shadow of her former self. She was completely worn out with hunger and fatigue, she asked father for his forgiveness which he gave her, with a prayer on her lips for god's mercy she passed away that night. Father got worse, he called me to his bedside, and made me take an oath of vengeance to hunt down the man who caused the misery. With a little groan he passed into the great beyond.

Jane

How long ago has that been?

Jack

Twenty five years ago, Jane in all that time I have never forgotten my promise I gave my father to hunt down the man who broke my father's heart, and made an orphan out of me.

Jane

I'm so sorry, Jack.

Jack

When you don't blame me, Jane?

Jane

Why no, Jack.

Jack

Some people would despise a man like me because my mother--- Oh such things as that are often hereditary, and cannot be helped.

Jane

Yes, I know, Jack.

Jack

For instance, I once knew a fellow who was married to a girl who was far about him socially, he tried to make her happy but he didn't get along financially she did her own housework and never complained, but he could see that she wasn't happy so he started buying her luxuries and beautiful things to make her comfortable---you see, Jane he just took the money.

Jane

You mean he stole?

Jack

That's just what he did. Now don't you think, if you had been that man's wife, that you would forgive him?

Jane

No. Had I been that man's wife, I would rather have lived in poverty on a crust of bread than to have been the wife of a thief.

Ford

(enters L)

Jane

Oh how are you, Mr. Ford?

Ford

How are you, fine you are looking today.

Jack

Hello, Ford.

Ford

Say, do you live here or just stick around here all the time?

Jack

Well, I ain't got nothing on you. You're here an awful lot too.

Ford

(laughs) Well, I have to look at a pretty woman once in a while, don't I (smiles at Mrs Ford)

Jane

Oh Mr. Ford, won't you sit down and make yourself comfortable. You see I hope you gentlemen will excuse me for a moment, but I must see if the cook has started dinner yet. (exits into house)

Jack

Well, Ford, what are you going to do to,

Ford
I'm going to send him to the States Prison.

Jack
How much did he take?

Ford
\$15,000.

Jack
Look here, Ford, I want to settle this thing for Tom. I've worked and saved my money, and I'll pay it back to you.

Ford
I don't want the money. I want to see that miserable little worm in prison. I said I would avenge him for calling me down, and I will.

Jack
But Jane think of her. She'll have to suffer, we both know she's on the square. I'll pay you this money to a penny if you'll let him go free.

Ford
So that's where the shoe pinches eh? The days of chivalry have returned. \$15,000 to let a man go free, for a woman's sake. No Jack its too much, its too much money. They're not worth it. I know the price, I've bought--three--bought women from all over the world. Why I bought one, an Indian Princess for a string of beads, a mere string of glass the only difference is where they're civilized its diamonds instead of beads, they're all alike. They'll all sell themselves body and soul for finery, the swellest little woman I ever saw, I stole, I went right into a trappers cabin in Colorado and stole her right out from under her husbands nose.

Jack
(hand on gun) You say you stole a woman from a trapper in Colorado?

Ford
Sure

Jack
What became of her?

Ford
Well, I don't stand for no such Sunday School ideas so we quarrelled and she vameosed, said she was going back to her husband, there's one woman that slipped through my fingers, without being any worse off for it.

Jack
You are sure she returned to her husband as pure as when she left him?

Ford
Sure she did.

Jack
Thank God for that.

Ford
Its a miracle she did though. Why I could have crushed her with a single blow, but there was always a look in her eyes that kinda queeled me. Women sure are strange creatures.

Jack
But this affair of Tom's I can square it.

Ford
NO!

Jack
Well, his wife don't know anything about it and so don't say anything until tomorrow for her sake.

Ford
Well all right, I've got men watching every move that he makes. He can't get away so one for one more night he is free.

Jane
(enter) Mr. Ford would you stay for dinner?

Ford
No, no, I've got to get back to the house.

Tom
(enters from house) Hello, Ford still here.

Ford
Yes, still here. Well, Tom, you seem to have profitted by my promotion which I gave you.

Tom
A little, yes.

Ford
Little eh? Well, I've got to be going. Good afternoon, Mrs. Brad. By the way, since you asked me to dinner, I might make a similar offer to you. Some time come over for dinner, won't you. YOU've never seen my house on the inside have you.

Jane
No, I really haven't.

Ford
Great place. You come over any time. And allow me to compliment you. You sure look swell nowadays.

Jane
I guess that is because I'm happy.

Ford
Your husband ought to be the happiest man in the world. Why if I had a little woman like you, I'd spend my hearts blood to make you happy, but I'd get it honest. I wouldn't steal! (looks straight at Tom)
Well, good afternoon. (exits F)

Tom
Its no use, Old Ford knows, tomorrow everybody will know.

Jane
Now what? What do you mean?

Tom
I mean that I'm a thief.

Jack
Don't listen to him, Jane---he doesn't know---

Tom
Oh shut up, Jack, theres no use trying to shield me. Old Ford will get me. He's got me right where he wants me. He'll show me up before the world, he'll send me to prison.

Jack
Well, Jan, you must not blame Tom. He is not to blame.

Jane
Jack, please leave us.

Jack
All right, but if there is anything that I can do for you, you can count on me to the end of my pile (exit J)

Jane
Oh, Tom! Tom, how could you? Think of the disgrace!

Tom
Thats right now, reproach me, heap walls of fire on my head, when I did it for your sake. I stole that you might dress and live like other women. I stole to make you happy.

Jane
Happy! Tomorrow morning the finger of scorn will be pointed at me. "there goes the wife of a thief"

Tom
Oh cut that rot. Lets see what can be done to keep me out of jail.

Jane
If I had known I would have spoken to Mr Ford when he was here. I'll telephone him now.

Tom
No, that won't do. You must go there.

Jane
Go the way?

Tom
Yes, no one will ever know. Old Man Ford won't settle this for money he's not that kind of a man. Jane, you and you alone can settle this.

Jane
I?

Tom
Yes. Old Man Ford likes you. You can do anything you want with him. You can wrap him around your finger if you want to, now you go and work him for my freedom. No one will ever know but Ford you and I.

Jane
Tom, do you realize what you are saying?

Tom
No one will ever know I tell you. If you don't do this I will have to go to prison for at least ten years, think of Jane, ten years. I stole for you and now I must go to prison because I've got a wife that won't stand by me.

Jane
Tom I will do anything that will help you, anything that is honorable.

Tom
Oh honor be damned. Did I think of honor when I stole for you? No. Jane, I can't go to jail, I'd kill myself first. I'm desperate, I don't care what you do, but you must do something, and do it tonight.

Jane
Very well, I will go to Mr. Ford's house.

Tom
Tonight?

Jane
Yes, but remember Tom you are to ask no questions regarding my actions from the time I leave here, until I return.

Tom
I'll never ask, Jane, I know---

Jane
Remember I am doing this for you sake.

Tom
Yes, yes, I know.

Jane
I'll be back as soon as I can. (exits in house)

Jack
(enters)
She'll save, she'll save me.

Jack
Tom, do you know where you are sending your wife?

Tom
Yes, what of it?

Jack
Old Dave Ford is a libertine, and as strong as an oak, and he has little regard for a woman's honor.

Tom
She's my wife, and I'll send her where I please.

Jack
See here Tom, you're not a man, you're a miserable howling worm, you to keep your ditty carcass out of jail, you'd sell your wife's honor, and don't you go too far, I'm doing what I can to keep you out of jail but not for your sake, but for Jane's (starts)

Tom
Where are you going?
Jack
To save your wife's honor!

SCENE TWO

Ford

(enters from R) Ho hum well, night again, and I am still alive. Twenty five or thirty years ago about this time, I'd be crawling under a blanket out on the plains for a nights snooze with my best eye open, and my hand on the trigger of my gun.

Jack

(enters L) Where is she? Where is Jane, Mrs. Brad?

Ford

What's wrong with you? How should I know where she is?

Jack

Is she here?

Ford

No.

Jack

You're lying to me.

Ford

What's that? Now see here Jack I don't know what your game is and I don't care, but you or no other man can call me a liar and lie.

Jack

Well she started for here.

Ford

Well she may have started for here, but she never got here. Now see here Burton there are two things that I don't do, I don't lie, and I don't steal. I hate a liar and a thief worse than I do anything on earth. Now why should Mrs. Brad be here?

Jack

Because her husband sent her.

Ford

What for?

Jack

To keep him out of jail.

Ford

Well he's worse than I thought he was a liar and a thief, now he 'll sell his wife's honor, well I always did like Mr. Brad and maybe when she gets here we can fix things up in a friendly way, so he won't have to go to jail.

Jack

See here, Ford, I've got an old score to settle with you.

Ford

Why I thought you and I got a long prett well, Jack.

Jack

This dates back to my childhood. Do you remember the woman that you told me about that you took from a man in Colorado?

Ford

Yes.

Jack

Well that woman was my mother.

Ford

Your mother, Jack?

Jack

I promised my father on his death bed, that I would hunt down the man who caused all this misery and when I found him I would kill him. Now that I've found him, can you blame me for wiping out an old score can you blame me if I did kill him?

Ford

No, I guess I deserve it. Go ahead and shoot.

Jack

I can't shoot you down in cold blood.

Wh?

Jack

Jane is coming here tonight. Now if you are on the square with her---

Ford

Well?

Jack

I'll forget the debt of vengeance.

Ford

Yes.

Jack

Jane has always been able to hold up her head and look me square in the eyes.

Ford

Well.

Jack

The next time I meet her, if she can't hold up her head and smile---

Ford

I'll kill you on sight! (exit)

Ford

Damned if he wouldn't do it too, so she's coming here tonight, eh? Why she wouldn't dare! Oh I don't know though in looking over my past life and dealing with woman, I should say snakes. I have never placed much of a stake on a woman's honor, but this time I am going to limit \$15,000 against a woman's honor and her husband's liberty. I've played many a game but never where the stakes so important, and we'll play this game to a finish, for she's sure a fine gal (looks off) here she comes now the game is about to commence. I'm anxious to see who will win it.

Jane

(enters L)

Ford

How do you do, Mrs. Brad.

Jane

How do you do, Mr. Ford.

Ford

Will you be seated and make yourself comfortable?

Jane

I must tell you why you came I come---

Ford

Wait until I show you my place.

Jane

But Mr. Ford---

Ford

Now, Mrs. Ford, I reckon I a perfect crank in wanting to show my visitors around my place, see that small valley out there? I reckon I feed more cattle on that little bit of land than some fellows have on a whole range.

Jane

But, Mr. Ford---

Ford

When I got that valley I didn't have enough money to pay for it, but it put me on my feet, and now I'm a cattle King.

Jane

Those were the days when you got your terrible reputation?

Ford

Terrible reputation, why what do you mean?

Jane

They say in those days, you would kill a man with as little feeling as you would a snake.

Ford

Well, if you didn't kill a snake it would bite you, wouldn't it?

Jane

Yes.

Ford

Well, I had men under me from all over the world, a mixture of every nationality, niggers indians mexicans and half breeds and if you didn' speak them, why they would bite, andt ey'd bite deep enough to kill. It was a tough life, but there was money in it so I stuck it out.

Jane

But I must tell you----

Ford

See, that little valley out there among the hills? Well I used that for a corral for my horses, a thieving band of Indians tried to steal my horses out of there one night, but the boys and I got wise and there sure was a tough flight. My boys got out to icees but we sure iped those indians off the map.

Jane

Oh I don't care about that I---it is eleven o'clock and I must be going

Ford

Why not yet. The pleasure of the night is only half begun let me get you some wine, beer or champagne---

Jane

No, No I must tell you why I came.

Ford

Well, we have time for that later on.

Jane

But Tom is waiting, and suffering.

Ford

All right, then I'll listen to what you have to say.

Jane

How did you know that my husband---

Ford

Stole \$15,000.

Jane

Can't something be done to keep Tom out of jail?

Ford

Maybe, what's your proposition?

Jane

I haven't any.

Ford

You came here at this hour of the night to see me, knowing my reputation and have nothing to propose?

Jane

I thought you might be generous enough to propose a plan.

Ford

You did eh? Your husband knows I like you pretty well, don't he? He knows what kind of amn I am, and what regard I place on a woman's honor---and yet he sent you here. We are not answerable for anything that might be done here tonight to him?

Jane

NO.

Ford

Your husbands says I like you. I do like you. I love you far more than that husband of yours ever dared love you, go with me. I'll shower you with the finest that money can buy, fine clothes, diamonds from now on you will want for nothing and your husband goes free, what do you say? (takes her in his arms)

Jane

No, no I'll die first! (pulling away)

Ford

Remember you are alone with me.

Jane

Jane

Oh I'm not afraid of you, for any man that would take advantage of a defenseless woman is a coward. I know why my husband sent me here and what is expected of me, but I have something to say about that. My honor is my own and it is not for sale. Its men like you that steal into the homes of husband's and steal their wives. Its men like you who watch young girls budding into womanhood, and ruin them by taking advantage of their ignorance. You are unworthy to bear the name of man. You say that you have killed men in your time. Now is your chance to kill a woman, for that is what you will have to do to me. (right up to him)

Ford

(raising hand) Why I'----

Jane

(stands gazing unflinchingly into his eyes)

Ford

(dropping hands) The game is over and you have won. You have put up a mighty good fight, Mrs. Brad, and I honor you for it. (sits down at table and begins writing while he talks) I knew you were good, and if you hadn't of been, it would have hit me hard here for I do love you---Oh not in the way you think, but the love of a father for his dutiful daughter, for that reason you are as safe here alone as you would be in your own mother's arms. For I'd fight to protect you as long as there was a drop of blood left in my veins. Yes, you have won. Won fair and square, and I lose with a happy heart! Read this. (hands her finished letter)

Jane

Oh I can't! I can't.

Ford

Then I'll read it for you. "Mr Tom Brad---we have auditted the books and found the same to be correct, you leave my employment with a clean record, signed Dave Ford. " They say that virtue is it's own reward, well it sure is in this case, for if you hadn't a been a good woman, you would never have got this.

Jane

I don't know how to thank you.

Ford

Well if you don't know how, don't try. In the early days on the border there were just one kind of a woman, it was my misfortune to meet just such kind, but I know now that there is a different kind and a good woman would of made a different sort of a man out of me, for a good woman is next to heaven.

Jack

(enters L)

Jane

Well, I must be going.

Ford

All right. Now, in regard to that husband of yours, I don't want to but into family affairs, but I've known what he was for a long time, and you ought to have a pretty good idea yourself now. Now there's Jack Burton, that fellow loves you, and to prove it he offered to pay me \$15.000 tonight to help your husband out of jail.

Jane

Jack?

Ford

Now, Mrs. Brad, if you don't mind why just hold up your head and look Jack, straight in the eyes.

Jane

I always do.

Ford

And kinder smile a little.

Jack

Jack
 Jane, your eyes never looked brighter to me before.
 Jane
 See, what Mr. Ford gave me.
 Jack
 (reads) Ford, you're all right.
 Ford
 Well maybe so.
 Jack
 Come, Jane I'll take you home.
 Jane
 Good night, Mr. Ford.
 Ford
 Good night, and pleasant dreams.
 Jack
 Ford, I bet you feel better over that act than you ever did before.
 Ford
 Maybe you're right.
 Jack
 Good night, Ford. (exit with Jane)
 Ford
 Well, I'll be damned if it ain't good to be decent!

 ***** NUMBER *****
 TWO

SCENE THREE

(the lights are dim blue now)

Tom

(enters) I wonder what is keeping Jane? Its time she was back. I wonder if she will fail. I dare not think of that. She'll swears it with Old Ford, its eleven o'clock now. I'll just go up the road to meet her. (exits L)

Loby

(enters from R with a guitar) Gosh darn it, nobody is looking! I'm gonna serenade that cook. I'm gonna git that fifty cents out of her, even if I have to make her marry me. I swiped this guitar from one of the boys. I don't know how to play it, but I'll make a stab at it. Here's her window over here, she's asleep, now I'll be romantic! (goes over and sits under the window) (plays out of key) (sings) . This ought to hit her good. Its a song called the Druggist Night Mare.

By the shores of Cutisura,
 By the sparkling Pluto Water
 Lived the Prophylactic Chielet
 Danderine, Fair Buick's daughter,
 She was love by Instant Postum,
 Son of Cameal and Virola
 Hair apparent to the Maze
 Of the tribe of Coca Cola
 Through the darkness strolled the lovers---
 Through the shredded Wheat they wandered
 Lovely little Wrigley Chielet
 Washed by Gairy, fed by Postum
 No Pyrene can quench the fire,
 Nor any Aspirin still the heartache
 Of my Presto Lite desire
 Let us marry little Djer-Kiss!

I wonder if she heard that. (valls in window) Hey, Horse radish, ~~have~~ you got my fifty cents?

Lydia
(sticks head out of window, she has her hair done up ip fn funny curlers and she looks sleepy eyed) HUH?

Toby
Oh lord, look at that face. Go on you can keep the fifty cents!

Lydia
Hey, who was that getting hurt out here?

Toby
Gettin' hurt?

Lydia
Yeh, sounded like somebody tore something.

Toby
Why, you dern fool I was serandadin ' you? How'd you like to git married?

Lydia
I dunno!

Toby
Well, I'll do you a favor, I'll marry you.

Lydia
You will! Oh you sweet man!

Toby
Then you aaccept me, huh? Well, you see, I figured that if you'd marry me, I could make you cook, and keep house for me, that way I'd get back the fifty cents your borrowed.

Lydia
You know my first husband married me for that same reason.

Toby
How many husbands have you had?

Lydia
Oh goodness, I don't know. My first three husbands all died.

Toby
Well isn't that nice? Did you kill 'em?

Lydia
No, poison did that.

Toby
Well, I supposed you'd kill me if I married you.

Lydia
Oh not for a little while

Toby
What th---

Lydia
You see husbands are like clothes---they wear out, and begin to ravel at the edges after a time. You must change with the fashions, and no woman should keep a husband over six months.

Toby
Well, I've got six months to live.-

Lydia
I remember my fifth husband. He was a little man about your size. In fact, I've got a lot of his clothes that you could wear after we're married.

Toby
I'll probably need 'em.

Lydia
I remember one night he came home and got in an argument with me. I hit him with a spittoon! That made him sore, and he upset a table on me. I got up and went over to the silver drawer and began throwing knives at him, he dodged them all, in fact, he was the best dodger I ever married. But finally one of those knives lodged right there in his throat*--(sticks Toby's throat with her finger, bus for him)

I aimed a little low the next shot, and one went through his diaphragm. Finally I ran out of knives, and started throwing forks. They didn't do good. I just stuck one of those in his left eye. After I'd used up all my forks, I found I was in a terrible fix, I had nothing left but teaspoons to throw. What was I to do? There stood my husband before me---a great big bloody mess. Then I got sore because he was musing up my clean floor and I threw a coffee pot at him, hit right between the eyes (touches Toby there) He staggered about the room, called me some names, and I began throwing china at him. That wasn't much good though. They broke too easily. Finally the big brute raised a hand to strike me, and then was when I put in the fatal blow I pulled off my pointed toe shoes and stabbed him in the heart---he fell dead at my feet, and---

Toby

I'm gonna get the hell out of here! (quick exit)

Lydia

(exits from window)

Jane and Jack

(enter L)

Jack

Well, here you are home, and safe Jane. I don't see Tom any where.

Jane

Would you mind if I asked you to go, Jack. Please. I---

Jack

Yes, I understand, Jane. (starts up L)

Tom

(enters L)

Jack

(ignores Tom and exits RL)

Tom

Well what luck? Is he going to send me to jail (takes paper which she hands him) Good! He's going to drop the subject and say no more about it. That's just like giving me \$15,000. Jane, I knew you would come to the front and save me, you're the dearest and best---

Jane

Oh, don't! Don't!

Tom

All right, if that's the way o feel about it. I'll still have a couple of thousand to the good and we can go to a new country and start all over again.

Jane

Do you think I would start again on stolen money?

Tom

Why not? What's the difference? Its not stolen money, he has given it to us, this paper proves that. By the way, how did he come to give you all this money? What did he say?

Jane

He said a great deal.

Tom

I bet he did. How did you work him for? What did you do?

Jane

I didn't do anything.

Tom

You didn't do anything?

Jane

Nothing, nothing at all.

Tom

Now, don't take me for a fool. Old Ford didn't give you \$15,000 for nothing now. Jane, give it to me straight, what did you do?

Jane
I said I didn't do anything.

Tom
And I say that you lie. (she starts to exit) Where are you going?
Jane

I'm going away.

Tom
You'll do nothing of the kind. You'll stay right here.
Jane

Tom.

Tom
You're my wife, understand, and you're going to tell me what happened at old Man Ford's tonight.

Jane
Tom, you agreed to ask no questions.

Tom
But I do demand- ask questions, and I demand an answer. Do you suppose that I am going on living with you knowing that you was old Dave Ford's mistress?

Jane
Mistress?

Tom
That's what I said. "Mistress" Old Ford is not the kind of a man to give \$15.000 for nothing, besides he likes you too well to let you slip through his fingers when he had the chance he had with you tonight.

Jane
You knew all of this, and you made me go.

Tom
That doesn't make any difference. What did you do?

Jane
You low contemptible thing, suppose I said to you, that I had sold my honor, and in return I bought that piece of paper, what then?

Tom
What then? Do you suppose that I would live with you another day? Knowing that you had sold your honor, no.

Jane
But it kept you out of jail.

Tom
I don't care if it did, you are no longer a wife of mine.

Jane
Tom, you have sunk lower in the social scale than I ever thought it possible for a human being to sink. I didn't say I had sold my honor I only said suppose I had. Mr. Ford, gave me that paper, not because I sold my honor, but because it was not for sale.

Tom
I don't believe it.

Jane
Of course you don't believe it, your mind is too full of evil to credit any one with a generous act.

Tom
Old man Ford is not going to give \$15.000 away for nothing.

Jane
Tom, you have killed all the love that I ever had for you. You are a liar, and a thief, yes even worse than that. Good night.

Tom
Youshan't go.

Jane
I said good night!

~~Tom~~

Tom
I said you'll stay right here.

Jane
Tom!

Tom
You are still my wife.

Jane
Yes, but not for long, the law will set me free.

Tom
(as he holds Jane) I say you'll stay here, you are still my wife, and I am still your husband.

Jack
(enters L) (takes Jane away from Tom) No, Tom. You have forfeited all rights to that name of husband, it all ends here----where the trail divides!

Toby
(who has entered some speeches ahead) Hot dern! Snap my pistol! That 's the way to grab things. Walk up and take 'em Now I'm gonna git my fifty cents: (goes to window) Hey, you disconnected ring tail bob eat. Come out of here.

Lydia
(sticking head out window sleepily) What you want?

Toby
Gimme my fifty cents or I'm gonna stand outside your window and howl all night.

Lydia
Oh now you git away from here. I aint got fifty cents.

Toby
Then you aint got no sleep for the rest of the night. (starts to howl)

Lydia
Wait a minute! If you'll let me sleep I'll give you half of it. A quarter is all I got.

Toby
Well give it to me!

Lydia
(hands him the quarter) Here, now shut up.

Toby
(standing and holding quarter in his hand) Yes---it all ends right here---where the fifty cents divides!

FINALE
